



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

December 5, 2011

H.R. 1466

A bill to resolve the status of certain persons legally residing in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands under the immigration laws of the United States

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources on October 5, 2011

CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1466 would have no significant net cost to the federal government. Enacting the bill would affect direct spending, but CBO estimates that the net costs would not be significant. Because the legislation would affect direct spending, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.

H.R. 1466 would permit certain persons currently residing in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) to apply for permanent residence in CNMI within eight months of the bill's enactment and would permit some of those persons to apply for permanent U.S. residence in calendar year 2015. Under the bill's provisions, any visas issued to CNMI residents in 2015 would be offset by a reduction in the number of visas available for certain other immigrants in that year.

Based on information from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), we expect that the department would charge a fee of \$500 to \$1,000 in 2012 to several thousand applicants for permanent CNMI residence and would charge a similar fee in 2015 to a smaller number of applicants for permanent U.S. residence. CBO estimates that additional fee collections in 2012 would be less than \$5 million. (No significant additional amounts would be collected in 2015 because visas granted to CNMI residents would be offset by a reduction in visas available for other immigrants.) DHS is authorized to spend those fees without further appropriation; therefore, the net effect on the budget in any year would not be significant, CBO estimates.

H.R. 1466 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. The estimate was approved by Theresa Gullo, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.